

CLAIMS

1. A device for identifying articles (4) comprising a contactless label of the RFID type, the articles (4) being aligned on a support, the device comprising at least one antenna (3), characterized in that said antenna (3) is included in a flexible head (1) suitable for deforming in contact with the contour of at least some of the articles (4) aligned to present a zone in contact with said contour of the articles (4) in contact, and a zone extending a manipulation medium.

2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a means of connection with a power supply module of said antenna (3).

3. The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the connection means consists of a wireless connection means.

4. The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the means consists of a wired connection means, for example an electric cable.

5. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a power supply module.

6. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a data storage means.

7. The device as claimed in claims 1 and 6, characterized in that it comprises a comparison means for

comparing the retrieved or collected items of data originating from a contactless label with an item of prerecorded data, corresponding to a particular label, in the data storage means.

8. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 7, characterized in that it comprises an audible and/or visual signaling means, where necessary delivered via a user interface, signaling each retrieval of data or the retrieval of an item of data corresponding to a particular label.

9. The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it comprises an input means for designating the book to be found and entering its identification in the aforementioned comparison means.

10. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the head (1) has a shape homothetic to the shape of the antenna, that is to say having dimensions at least greater than those of the antenna.

11. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the head (1) has a rectangular or ovoidal shape.

12. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the head (1) has a gripping means, such as a handle, allowing it to be transported and handled by an operator.

13. The device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the aforementioned head (1) is connected to the gripping means via a swivel joint, or similar, capable of allowing said head (1) to rotate on its axis and to have a freedom of

angular movement of the order of  $\pm 20^\circ$ .

14. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is mounted on a movement means, such as a cart.

15. The device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the gripping means comprises an activation trigger, or similar, used to activate/deactivate the aforementioned antenna (3).

16. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flexible head (1) is made of plastic.

17. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each label comprises a data storage means, capable of recording a n-bit binary code; at least a portion of said memory being rewritable.

18. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a user interface making it possible to display the items of data originating from the contactless label.

19. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned flexible head (1) has numerous fingers, for example like tentacles.

20. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each of the fingers comprises at least one antenna.

21. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the antenna (3) in the flexible head (1) consists of a three-dimensional antenna or a flat antenna.

22. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the gripping means comprises a telescopic tube capable of increasing or reducing the distance between said means and the flexible head (1).

23. A system for the identification of articles (4) as claimed in claims 1 to 22, characterized in that it comprises numerous contactless labels of the RFID type disposed on aligned articles (4) and a device comprising an antenna (3), included in a flexible head (1) capable of deforming in contact with the contour of at least some of the articles (4) aligned to present a zone in contact with said contour of the articles (4) in contact, and a zone extending a manipulation medium.